

## FOREWORD

Not so many years ago I headed the Historical Records Survey (1935-39) which gave prime emphasis to the Inventory of County Archives, chiefly because the program distributed work opportunities to the greater number. When, however, the State Records Microfilm Project was proposed by the University of North Carolina to the Library of Congress, the seed fell on well-harrowed soil. Over the years, through too many vicissitudes the Project has been brought near completion. Here, in sub-publication form on a scale never before attempted, 120,000 feet of film is the equivalent of about 1,920,000 pages or 6,400 three-hundred page volumes under one title. Gaps there are sure to be and our attention will be devoted to filling those gaps. Errors will certainly be noted, and we will welcome learning of them. By and large, however, we consider this Records of the States, a milestone in the democratic process of making the materials, recording the workings of a democratic society, available to all who would learn how we came to be what we are as a people.

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